GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3875
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
LOW LITERACY RATE OF TRIBALS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Tribal Development projects were created for the overall development of Tribals in the Country;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the low literacy rate of tribals;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide them proper education to increase the literacy rate among them;

(e) whether the Government proposes to implement any income-generation programmes to raise the economic and social status of tribals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The literacy trends indicate rising literacy among tribal people from 1961 to 2001. The Government is, however, aware of the low literacy rate of tribal people visa-vis the national average which is due to various socio-economic factors, including their geographical isolation and lack of infrastructure facilities prohibiting outreach of agencies working for promotion of literacy and education, etc.

(d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development as the nodal Ministry and State Governments implement various schemes/programmes for enhancement of literacy levels among people, including the tribal people. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also supplements their efforts by promoting education amongst tribal people through - various schemes, such as, Boys/Girls Hostels for STs, Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas, Education Complex in low literacy pockets, Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs, Upgradation of Merit of ST students, Grant-in-aid to non-Governmental Organisations for running residential/non- residential schools and T- hostels, residential schools under schemes of Article 275(1) of the Constitution, National Overseas Scholarship and also by providing Post-Matric Scholarship to tribal students.

(e) & (f) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) for filling up of critical gaps under employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto, not only family-based but also run by SeLf-Help Groups (SHGs) in the tribal communities. The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand-based income generation programes, and thus raising the economic and social status of tribal people.